

Ross	Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)
Rothman (NJ)	Serrano	Tiahrt
Ruppersberger	Sestak	Tierney
Ryan (OH)	Shea-Porter	Titus
Sablan	Sires	Tsongas
Salazar	Slaughter	Van Hollen
Sánchez, Linda	Smith (NE)	Visclosky
T.	Smith (NJ)	Walden
Sanchez, Loretta	Smith (WA)	Walz
Sarbanes	Snyder	Wasserman
Schakowsky	Spratt	Schultz
Schauer	Stark	Watson
Schiff	Stupak	Welch
Schock	Sutton	Woolsey
Schrader	Taylor	Wu
Schwartz	Terry	Young (AK)
Scott (GA)	Thompson (CA)	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—42

Barrett (SC)	Delahunt	Melancon
Blackburn	Faleomavaega	Mollohan
Blumenauer	Fallin	Nunes
Boucher	Filner	Paul
Boyd	Gohmert	Pingree (ME)
Brown (SC)	Granger	Reyes
Butterfield	Green, Gene	Shuler
Castor (FL)	Hinchey	Speier
Christensen	Hinojosa	Teague
Clay	Hodes	Wamp
Cohen	Hoekstra	Waters
Culberson	Linder	Waxman
Davis (AL)	Mack	Wilson (OH)
DeGette	Meeks (NY)	Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining to vote.

□ 1811

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 240, I was away from the Capitol due to commitments in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The CHAIR. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER) having assumed the chair, Mr. SCHIFF, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2499) to provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico, pursuant to House Resolution 1305, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I am. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hastings of Washington moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2499 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Amend Section 2(c)(3) to read as follows:

(3) Statehood: Puerto Rico should be admitted as a State of the Union, the official language of this State shall be English, and all its official business shall be conducted in English; and laws shall be in place that ensure that its residents have the Second Amendment right to own, possess, carry, use for lawful self defense, store, assembled at home, and transport for lawful purposes, firearms and in any amount ammunition, provided that such keeping and bearing of firearms and ammunition does not otherwise violate Federal law. If you agree, mark here

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as the House considers the bill on Puerto Rico's future, this motion to recommit provides Members of the House an opportunity to register their views on questions of English as an official language and on the importance of protecting Americans' Second Amendment rights.

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, two amendments were filed with the Rules Committee to directly address the issues of the English language and Second Amendment gun rights. Both were blocked by the Democrat-controlled Rules Committee.

What that means, of course, is that Members have no opportunity to debate this issue. Making an amendment in order does not guarantee, obviously, the outcome. Yet we are even denied the opportunity of English as the official language and Second Amendment rights. So this motion to recommit simply combines these two issues in the motion to recommit. Let me explain specifically what the motion will do.

It will amend the description of "statehood," which will appear on the plebiscite ballot authorized under this bill, to state: one, English will be the official language of the State, and all official business will be conducted in English; two, laws will be in place that will "ensure residents have the Second Amendment right to own, possess, carry, use for self-defense, store assembled at home, and transport for lawful purposes, firearms and in any amount ammunition, providing that such keeping and bearing of firearms and ammunition does not otherwise violate Federal law."

This MTR simply expresses the views on these two important issues. It has been asserted during the debate that providing for English as the official language is something unprecedented or that it is something which hasn't been talked about or whatever. That is simply not true, because four States were admitted to the Union, and part of that admittance was a requirement that English would be the official language.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty straightforward motion to recommit, and I urge my colleagues to vote for the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. The matters that are being raised in this motion are premature. They are irrelevant, actually, because all that H.R. 2499 does is to consult the people of Puerto Rico on the four available options that they have regarding our status—the current status of the territory, statehood, independence, and free association.

The people of Puerto Rico have not yet expressed by a majority that they want to join the Union as a State. I hope that it comes about, and when it comes about, Puerto Rico will comply with the Second Amendment in the same way that all the other States must comply with the Second Amendment.

The same goes for the English language. That shouldn't be an issue. It shouldn't be an issue now in Puerto Rico, and it will not be an issue, if the time comes, when we become a State. Puerto Rico now has two official languages—English and Spanish. Ninety percent of our parents want their children to be fluent in English. We are proud of having English as a language, and we want to improve it. In fact, I have two bills pending before this Congress for that very purpose.

So both issues are being unfairly placed—at least that is what the motion seeks—in the ballot that the people of Puerto Rico will be having in front of them. What the motion seeks is to somehow tell the people of Puerto Rico, You can have statehood, but just English only and only if you comply with the Second Amendment.

I oppose this motion because it is untimely, and it is premature. The day will come when we will debate these issues, but that day is not now.

I yield 1 minute to the majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may not yield blocks of time and must remain on his feet.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico has 2 minutes and 40 seconds remaining.